

Gonorrhea Fact Sheet

Gonorrhea, caused by bacterium, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Many individuals have no symptoms. If symptoms occur, they usually appear 2-7 days after exposure but may take as long as 30 days to appear.

Symptoms in women include:

- Abnormal and/or increased vaginal discharge
- Burning sensation when urinating
- Frequent urination
- Pain during intercourse
- Bleeding between menstrual periods
- Anal irritation, i.e. itching, soreness, painful bowel movements and/or bleeding)

Symptoms in men include:

- Discharge from penis
- Burning sensation when urinating
- Burning or itching around opening of penis
- Penile (head) swelling and soreness
- Painful or swelling of testicles
- Anal irritation, i.e. itching, soreness, painful bowel movements and/or bleeding)

TRANSMISSION

Gonorrhea infections are transmitted through:

- Vaginal, anal, or oral sex
- Autoinoculation (infected urethral or vaginal discharge into a woman's rectum)
- Infected mother to newborn during vaginal childbirth

COMPLICATIONS/CONSEQUENCES

If untreated gonorrheal infections may result in:

- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
- Infertility
- Ectopic (tubal) pregnancy
- Chronic pelvic pain
- Increased risk for acquiring HIV infection

If untreated in pregnancy, gonorrhea can lead to:

- Premature Delivery
- Blindness, joint infection, or a life threatening blood infection in newborns

TREATMENT

Treatment should include:

- Antibiotics (commonly cefixime or ceftriaxone) prescribed by a health care provider
- Appropriate treatment of partner

PREVENTION

- Abstain from sexual contact
- Early treatment of any STDs
- Appropriate use of latex condoms consistently and correctly during vaginal, anal, and oral sex on a penis
- Appropriate use of latex barrier for oral sex on a vagina or anus
- Avoidance of sexual contact with a partner until treatment is completed

Recommendations for prohibiting the spread of infection:

- Take all medications prescribed even if you stop having symptoms
- Notify all recent sex partners if infected

Contact Information:

For more information pertaining to Florida clinical services, sites, and treatment recommendations please visit us on the web at http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/std/clinical/clinical.html or email us at: HSD_STD@doh.state.fl.us.

National STD Hotline

1-800-227-8922 (24 hrs, 7 days a week)

Spanish

1-800-344-7432 (8am-2pm EST, 7 days a week)

Hearing Impaired

1-800-243-7889 (10am-10pm EST, Mon.-Fri.)